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3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
4 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

5 IZAK SHACKELFORD,

6 Plaintiff,

7 v.

8 MASON COUNTY JAIL,

9 Defendant.

No. C13-5326 BHS/KLS

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

10 Before the Court is Plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel. ECF No. 6.
11 Having carefully reviewed Plaintiff's motion and balance of the record, the Court finds, for the
12 reasons stated below, that Plaintiff's motion should be denied.

13 **DISCUSSION**

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15 No constitutional right exists to appointed counsel in a § 1983 action. *Storseth v.*
16 *Spellman*, 654 F.2d 1349, 1353 (9th Cir. 1981). *See also United States v. \$292,888.04 in U.S.*
17 *Currency*, 54 F.3d 564, 569 (9th Cir. 1995) ("[a]ppointment of counsel under this section is
18 discretionary, not mandatory.") However, in "exceptional circumstances," a district court may
19 appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) (formerly 28
20 U.S.C. § 1915(d)). *Rand v. Roland*, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), *overruled on other*
21 *grounds*, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998) (emphasis supplied.) To decide whether exceptional
22 circumstances exist, the court must evaluate both "the likelihood of success on the merits [and]
23 the ability of the petitioner to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal
24 issues involved." *Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986) (quoting
25 *Weygandt v. Look*, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th Cir. 1983)). A plaintiff must plead facts that show he
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1 has an insufficient grasp of his case or the legal issue involved and an inadequate ability to
2 articulate the factual basis of his claim. *Agyeman v. Corrections Corp. of America*, 390 F.3d
3 1101, 1103 (9th Cir. 2004).

4 That a *pro se* litigant may be better served with the assistance of counsel is not the test.
5 *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525. Moreover, the need for discovery does not necessarily qualify the issues
6 involved as “complex.” *Wilborn*, 789 F.2d at 1331. Most actions require development of further
7 facts during litigation. But, if all that was required to establish the complexity of the relevant
8 issues was a demonstration of the need for development of further facts, then practically all cases
9 would involve complex legal issues. *Id.*

11 The Court finds no exceptional circumstances in this case. Plaintiff filed his complaint
12 *pro se* and has demonstrated an adequate ability to articulate his claims *pro se*. This case is not
13 legally or factually complex. While Plaintiff may not have vast resources or legal training, he
14 meets the threshold for a *pro se* litigant. Concerns regarding investigation and discovery are
15 also not exceptional factors, but are the type of difficulties encountered by many *pro se* litigants.
16 There are also numerous avenues of discovery available to the parties through the Federal Rules
17 of Civil Procedure during the litigation process. In addition, Plaintiff has not shown a likelihood
18 of success on the merits.

20 Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion for the appointment of counsel (ECF No. 6) is **DENIED**.
21 The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to Plaintiff.

23 **DATED** this 2nd day of May, 2013.

24 
25 Karen L. Strombom
26 United States Magistrate Judge